

# YAWN-MAKER WANTED

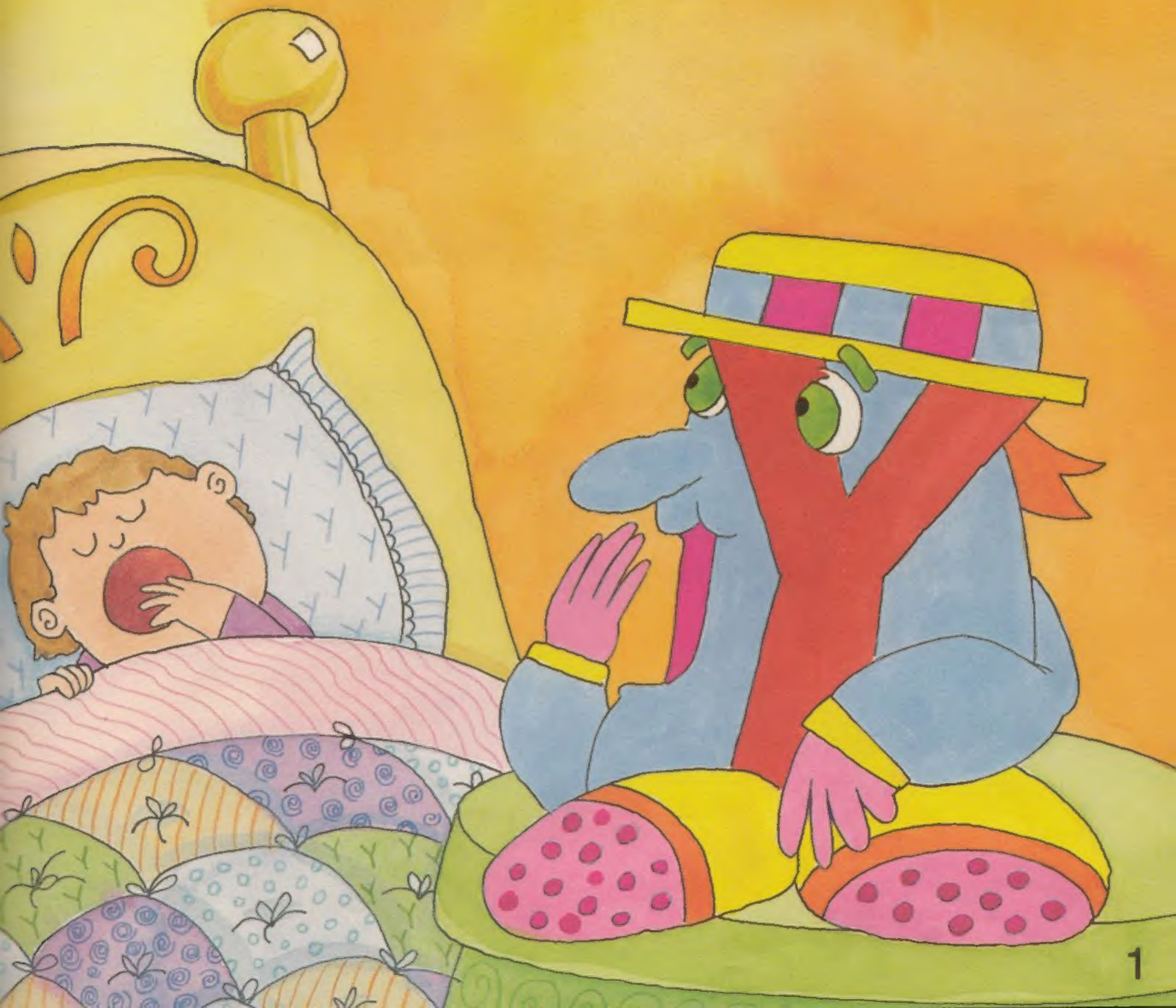


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RITA FRIEDMAN

Mr. Y is the yawn-maker of Letter People Land.  
His job is helping the children fall asleep.  
He visits the children every night at bedtime.  
He yawns, they yawn; he yawns, they yawn.  
Mr. Y yawns until the children fall asleep.



One day Mr. Y asks the mayor to find another yawn-maker.

"Why don't you want to be the yawn-maker?" asks the mayor.

"I work very hard yawning for every child every night," says Mr. Y.

"But no one has ever said, 'Mr. Y, you do a good job.'"

"But your job is so easy," says the mayor.

"All you have to do is yawn."

"See," says Mr. Y, "even you don't appreciate me." Before the mayor can say another word, Mr. Y leaves.



"I cannot ask Mr. Y to do a job he does not want to do,"  
thinks the mayor.

"I'll find another yawn-maker."

The mayor puts a want ad  
in the Letter People Land newspaper.

The ad says:

'Yawn-maker wanted.

Very easy job!

Telephone the mayor.'



The next day the mayor's telephone rings and rings.  
Many people want the yawn-maker's job.  
After talking to everyone who calls,  
the mayor hires Yalen.  
"I'm sure you won't have any problems,"  
says the mayor.  
"Anyone can be a yawn-maker."



That evening Yalen buys a large yellow alarm clock.  
Then he goes to visit Yardley,  
the first child on his list.  
Yalen sets the alarm to ring in five minutes.  
“I will yawn until the alarm rings,” explains Yalen.  
“Then I will leave.”  
Yalen yawns one yawn.  
Yardley yawns one yawn.  
Yardley falls asleep after the first yawn.



Yalen is so busy yawning,  
he doesn't see Yardley sleeping.  
Suddenly the alarm rings.  
Yardley jumps up.  
"The alarm scared me and woke me up," she says.  
"Now I will need many yawns to fall asleep again."  
"I am sorry," says Yalen.  
"My yawning time with you is finished."  
He picks up the yellow alarm clock and leaves.  
"Mr. Y would not leave until I was asleep,"  
thinks Yardley.



Yalen goes from house to house.  
He only yawns for five minutes and then he leaves,  
even if the child is still awake.  
The children complain to their parents.  
The parents complain to the mayor.  
The mayor talks to Yalen.  
“Your alarm clock keeps waking the children.  
I am sorry, but you cannot be the yawn-maker  
for Letter People Land,” says the mayor.



Next the mayor hires Yola to be the yawn-maker  
of Letter People Land.  
That night Yola visits all the children.  
She yawns until they fall asleep.  
But Yola discovers she does not like to yawn.  
So the next night, instead of yawning, Yola yodels.  
“Yo-da-lay-he-hoo! Yo-da-lay-he-hoo!”  
Yola yodels again and again.



The children cannot fall asleep  
listening to Yola yodel.

"Mr. Y would not yodel when we were trying  
to fall asleep," the children tell their parents.

The parents talk to the mayor.

The mayor talks to Yola.

"Yawning is boring," says Yola.

"Yodeling is fun.

If I cannot yodel, I don't want this job."



Next the mayor hires Yasmin.  
Yasmin likes to yawn.  
But Yasmin has a problem too.  
Yasmin yawns so well, she makes herself sleepy.  
She falls asleep before the children do.  
“Mr. Y would never fall asleep the way Yasmin does,”  
say the children to their parents.  
The parents talk to the mayor.  
The mayor hires another yawn-maker.



The new yawn-maker's name is York.  
York wants every yawn to be a big, round yawn.  
He holds a mirror in front of his face as he yawns.  
The children cannot see his yawns.  
They complain to their parents.  
"York does not look at us when he yawns,"  
say the children.  
"Mr. Y always looked at us."  
"York is not a good yawn-maker,"  
the parents tell the mayor.  
The mayor tells York that she must find  
another yawn-maker.



The mayor hires yawn-maker after yawn-maker.  
No one can do the job.

“Being a yawn-maker looks easy to me,”  
thinks the mayor.

“I will try the job myself.”

That night the mayor goes from house to house.  
She yawns and yawns for each child.

Her mouth hurts from so much yawning.

“I am not a good yawn-maker either,”  
thinks the mayor.



The mayor thinks about the yawn-maker's job.  
"I never realized how hard Mr. Y worked," she thinks.  
The mayor goes to Mr. Y's house.  
"I have hired many people to be the yawn-maker  
of Letter People Land," says the mayor.  
"I thought the yawn-maker's job was easy.  
But it wasn't easy for me or for anyone else.  
Mr. Y, you did a good job.  
Please be our yawn-maker again."  
Before Mr. Y can answer, he hears people in his yard.



The yard is filled with the children and their parents.  
“Mr. Y, we’ve all come to ask you  
to be the yawn-maker again,” say the parents.  
“Now we know what a fine job you did.”  
“Please say yes, Mr. Y,” cry all the children.  
“The other yawn-makers didn’t help us fall asleep.  
We miss you and have many things to tell you.”  
Mr. Y smiles.  
“Please tell me everything,” says Mr. Y.



“It was terrible without you,” says Yurelle.  
“Yalen’s big yellow alarm clock woke us up,  
and Yola’s yodeling kept us awake.”  
“Yasmin did not put us to sleep — she put herself  
to sleep!” laughs Yancy.  
“York didn’t look at us, and the mayor’s mouth  
hurt too much,” explains Yarrie.  
“Please be our yawn-maker again,”  
beg all the children.  
“Yes, I will,” says Mr. Y.  
“I love being your yawn-maker.”  
“Yippee!” yell the children.



“Mr. Y, you’ve taught us an important lesson.  
Now we know that you and everyone who does  
a good job needs to be appreciated,” says the mayor.  
“I am very happy,” smiles Mr. Y.  
“Now I am going inside to rest.  
I have a lot of yawning to do tonight.”

